

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 784
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 3355

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PDIP: VT, HU
SUBJECT: PRESS SPECULATION ON VATICAN-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS

1. ITALIAN PRESS ON FEBRUARY 22 SPECULATES THAT VATICAN AND HUNGARY ARE SET TO ESTABLISH FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. BASIS FOR PRESS STORIES IS INTERVIEW GIVEN BY HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR TO ITALY ON FEBURARY 21. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, AMBASSADOR RESZO PALOTAS, IN REPLY TO A PRESS QUERY, STATED THAT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE ATICAN AND HUNGARY HAVE BY NOW BECOME "SYSTEMATIZED" AT TWO PER YEAR AND THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS COULD COME IN "MEDIUM TERM".

2. COMMENT: VATICAN SOUCE TOLD US THAT AMBASSADOR WAS OBVIOUSLY EXTRAPOLATING LOGICAL PREGRESSION OF RELATIONSHIPS WHICH REMAIN VERY SATISFACTORY AS A RESULT OF KADAR AUDIENCE WITH POPE PAUL ON JUNE 9, 1977. OUR SOURCE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. MOST VATICAN OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT VATICAN WOULD WISH POLAND TO BE THE FIRST EAST EUROPEAN STATE WITH WHICH TO ESTABLISH DKIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 22 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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